



# pRide



WINTER, 2001

THE NEWSLETTER BY AND FOR

RHODE ISLAND STATE EMPLOYEES

## The Reluctant Hero

**John McElroy** is a Parole Counselor for the Department of Corrections, but on September 27, 2000, he became in the words of the *Barrington Times*, "a reluctant hero".

Here is their editorial of October 4, 2000, that tells of his heroism.

"A reluctant hero.

In a world where so much of the news is upsetting, it's nice to hear the story of John McElroy and Luisa Falcao.

Last Wednesday night, Mr. McElroy went for a walk along Mathewson Road with his dog, Maxine. Before he and Maxine returned home a young woman's life had been saved.

Moments after Ms. Falcao's car jumped a wall and plunged into the Barrington River, Mr. McElroy found himself on the bank, looking down at a car half submerged, upside down, in chest deep water 10 feet from shore. Inside was the 20-year old woman.

Not hesitating, he jumped in, struggled to find and finally grab her, pulled her from the flooded interior of the car, beat the water out of her lungs and then, quietly, made for home before the police could take a statement.

The next day, he said he wasn't a hero, that he had done what anyone else would have done given the circumstances.

Maybe so. Hopefully we'll never have to find out.

Yet, Mr. McElroy found out. Faced with a dire emergency, he made a snap decision that ultimately preserved the life of a young woman and spared her family and friends immeasurable grief. If that isn't a heroic act, we don't know what is.

Thank you, Mr. McElroy, for acting as you did. Heroes deserve a curtain call."

— *Barrington Times*

— Submitted by Sharon Schwartz-Vanderhoff, DOC

## RIHEAA Hosts National Conference

The Rhode Island Higher Education Assistance Authority (RIHEAA) recently hosted a three day conference of the National Association of State Student Grant and Aid Programs (NASSGAP). Representatives of state student grant agencies from across the

country met at the Biltmore Hotel in Providence to hear speakers from national organizations and the US Department of Education address such topics as *College Affordability*, *A Report on the Condition of Access* and *The Use of New Technologies in Developing State Grant Award Systems*.



A highlight of the conference was the recognition of **Senator Jack Reed** for his tireless efforts in supporting the increase of student aid at the postsecondary level. Proclamations were presented to Senator Reed by Mr. Dennis Obergfell, President of the NASSGAP and by Dr. Robert McKenna, Chairman of the Board of Directors of RIHEAA.

— Submitted by Gregory Silva, RIHEAA

## Department of Administration Annual Golf Challenge



Winners of the Department of Administration Annual Golf Challenge held at the Quiddessett Country Club include l to r, Allan J. Meritt, Ken Iavarone, Thomas Siller and John Huppee, Jr.



## FROM THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

### Executive Orders

**00-12 12-19-00** Rhode Island Contingency Oil Reserve Plan.

For more information or copies of Executive Orders, call the **Office of the Executive Counsel, 222-2050, Ext. 568.**

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**Deadline for contributions to the Spring, 2001 issue is April 15, 2001.**

The State of Rhode Island is an equal opportunity and diversity employer and reasonable accommodations will be provided. For assistance, call EEO Office at 222-3090. (TDD 222-6144).

## Fourth Annual State Employees Golf Tournament Nets \$1000 for SECA

Richmond Country Club was the setting this past fall for the Howard Center's Fourth Annual Golf Tournament hosted to benefit the State Employees Charitable Appeal (SECA) campaign.

Organized by Denise Breckel, state building coordinator for the Department of Human Services (DHS), and Tony Venditti, an electrician with the Department of Mental Health, Retardation and Hospitals (MHRH), the tournament, held September 29, 2000, raised \$1,000 for SECA.

More than 160 golfers, including state employees and their guests, participated in the tournament and enjoyed 18-holes of golf played in a four-player Texas-scramble format with a shotgun start. Complimentary beverages and hot dogs were provided for the golfers throughout the day. Therapeutic Massage was also on hand offering golfers free massages. Erika Koch of MHRH volunteered her photography services and took pictures of golfers throughout the tournament as well. Following their round of golf, participants enjoyed a selection of appetizers and a dinner of prime rib or baked stuffed chicken.



Low Gross Scoring team winners l to r, Todd Chaplin, Mike Walton, Brian Kennedy and Kevin Carley (missing) from the DOA.

Prizes were awarded to golfers in the following categories:

**Low gross scoring team winners:** Michael Walton, Todd Chaplin, Kevin Carley, and Brian Kennedy of the Department of Administration (DOA).

**Low net scoring team winners:** Mark Malikowski, Mike Femino, Charles Nadeau, and Victor Fargnoli, Jr. of MHRH.

**Low gross scoring male:** Michael Walton of DOA.

**Low gross scoring female:** Laura Hood.

**Low net scoring male:** Charles Nadeau of MHRH.

**Low net scoring female:** Janet Angell.

**Longest drive male winners:** Jim Mixner and Dennis Sales.

**Longest drive female winners:** Suzanne Christiansen and Laura Hood.

**Closest to the pin:** Charles Nadeau and Tom Cosgrove.

In addition to the many prizes raffled during the event, Lee Frye of Motiva Enterprises of Providence donated game tickets (four each) to the Boston Bruins, Boston Celtics and the New York Nicks. Game ticket raffle winners were Mike Cosgrove of MHRH, Mel Steppo and Angelo Toscani. The winners of the tournament's three 50/50 raffles were Brad Goodwin of MHRH, Rob Manzo and Mike Cosgrove of MHRH.

Sponsors of the tournament included AA Wrecking & Asbestos Abatement; Advantage Glass Co.; Apollo Roofing & Sheet Metal, Inc.; A-Team Petroleum, Inc.; Athenian Deli; Castellucci, Galli Corp.; Crest Manufacturing Co.; Dunkin' Donuts; EastSide Foodmart; EDS-State Government Services; IDK Promotional; JMJ Construction; Michelangelo's Deli Express; Motiva Enterprises LLC; NAON/NAGE 79; On the Rocks; Prospect Development Corp.; Shalvey Bros. Landscape, Inc.; Standard Motor Products; Thomas F. Ginnerty, Esq.; Claflin & Service Co.; Grinnell Fire Protection; Balloons of R.I., Inc.; Mariner Mortgage, LLC; Merola Contracting Co.; Nabisco; Thomas Leonardo & Associate Architects; Prudential Securities; and Ayoub Engineering, Inc.



Low Net Scoring team winners l to r, Mike Femino, Chuck Nadeau, Victor Fargnoli, Jr. and Mark Malikowski of MHRH.

(continued on page 3)

## SECA Golf Tournament

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Donations to the tournament were made by the following companies: AAA Southern New England, AC Delco, Coca Cola of Providence, Dial Battery, Fed-Rick Veal, Goodyear Pawtucket, Ironwoods Gold Practice Ctr., John Baker, McLaughlin & Moran (Budweiser), Northeast Golf Sales, Richmond Country Club, Therapeutic Massage, and Tire Pro.

Special thanks go out to Mary Balzano, Tom Breckel, Suzanne Christiansen, Steve Cross, Andy Delli Carpini, Vicki Finn, Erika Koch, Barbara L'Europa, Angela Ruo and Angelo Ruo, Tony Venditti and Lori Warren for their help in coordinating the event.

This year's tournament has already been scheduled and will take place Friday, September 28, 2001. If you are interested in participating in this event, please contact Denise Breckel at DHS at 462-2379 as soon as possible as openings are filled quickly.

— Submitted by Diana M. Dionizio, DHS

## pRIde in performance

**William S. Darcy** and **Paul D. Mattera** of the Bureau of Audits were named Certified Internal Auditor (CIA) by the Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA). The CIA designation is awarded to internal audit professionals who have met the rigorous requirements of the IIA's CIA Program, including four-part examination, as well as high standards of character, education, and experience. The announcement was made by the IIA's Senior Manager of Certifications, Peter L. Osburn, CIA, CCSA.

The CIA exam, administered twice a year in several languages, was given in May, 2000 to approximately 7,000 candidates at 208 sites in 58 countries around the world. Of these candidates, approximately 1,100 have completed the examination requirement and are eligible to become Certified Internal Auditors. The CIA exam reflects the current state of the art in internal auditing and evaluates technical competence in important subject areas related to internal auditing.

The more than 29,000 Certified Internal Auditors worldwide are members of a recognized professional group and benefit from rapid career advancement and greater acceptance in the role as advisor to management.

Established in 1941, The Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA) is an international professional association with world headquarters in Altamonte Springs, Florida. The IIA has more than 70,000 members in internal auditing, governance, internal control, IT audit, education, and security. With representation from more than 100 countries, the Institute is the acknowledged leader in certification, education, research, and technological guidance for the profession worldwide.

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September 26th, 2000, was a very special day for **Jack Murphy**, Administrator for the RI Division of Taxation — Child Support Enforcement (CSE) Program. The Federal Office of Child Support Enforcement, as part of a celebration of its Silver Anniversary marking twenty-five years of giving hope and support to America's children, dedicated one of two new conference rooms in Mr. Murphy's



name and honor. The Jack Murphy Conference Room is located in the headquarters of the Federal Office of Child Support Enforce-

ment, Aerospace Building, on L'Enfant Promenade in Washington, D.C. Federal OCSE Commissioner David Gray Ross provided the welcome and opening remarks. Those speaking of Jack's accomplishments at the ceremony were Ms. Olivia Golden, Asst. Secretary of Health and Human Services, Mr. Hugh Galligan, Region I Administrator of HHS's Administration for Children and Families, and United States Senator Lincoln Chafee.

Jack Murphy has been in state service for 26 years. Beginning in the Department of Human Services, he held various financial, data processing and management positions in the CSE program. Serving as the program's first accountant in 1974, he was responsible for implementing the nationally mandated child support collection and distribution accounting system. Subsequent positions held by Jack over the years included serving as the Project Manager for the Statewide Automated Child Support System Project, which was successfully installed and federally certified in 1991, and as Administrator for the DHS Collections, Claims and Recoveries Office and the DHS Office of Fraud Investigation and Prosecution.

For the past ten years Jack has been the Administrator of the State's Child Support Enforcement Program. During his tenure the State's distributed child support collections have grown to \$60 Million, an increase in excess of 100%, surpassing both the Regional and National average.

Recognized nationally as an expert in his field, Mr. Murphy is currently involved in introducing new technologies to the CSE program, including the new and innovative Child Support Lien Network (CSLN) for insurance claim interception. CSLN, designed and implemented under a federal Special Improvement Project grant to the Rhode Island CSE, and hosted by the State of Rhode Island, is an innovative web-based interstate network that allows member states to interface their delinquent obligor files with insurance claimants who are about to receive a personal injury or worker's compensation settlement for the purposes of automatically lien-ing and seizing such assets for past due support owed to children and families. The federal office has supported Jack in the development of CSLN and has recognized his efforts in working with the insurance industry as a great example of a successful private/public partnership that can occur without the need for federal mandate.

## OTD Training Courses Winter/Spring 2001

February		Fee
14	Intro to GroupWise ver. 5.5	\$ 70
19	Intro to Access (Office 97)	65
21 & 26	Intro to Microsoft Word (Office 97)	110
28	Building Positive Work Relationships	80
March		
1 & 2	Intro to Microsoft Excel (Office 97)	110
6	Intro to GroupWise ver. 5.5	70
13	Intro to PowerPoint (Office 97)	65
14	Intro to Personal Computers	40
15	Basic Spanish	80
20	Intro to Access (Office 97)	65
April		
3	Intro to Windows 95	65
9	Exploring the Challenges of a Supervisory Position	80
10	Intro to GroupWise ver. 5.5	70
11	Integration in Microsoft Office 97	65
12	Intro to Microsoft Excel (Office 97)	110
13	Intermediate Microsoft Excel (Office 97)	110
16	Intro to Microsoft Word (Office 97)	110
17	Intro to PowerPoint (Office 97)	65
18	Developing Personal Leadership Skills	80
18	Intro to Microsoft Word (Office 97)	110
24	Access Level II (Office 97)	65


**Note: Copies of the OTD catalog of training courses are now available from your department's Human Resource Officer or Training Office.**


# Earth Saving Tips from Earth Share


## APPLIANCES THAT CUT ENERGY COSTS


You can beat rising energy prices by investing in the newest generation of household appliances that save both energy and operating costs. In general, look for models that boast the federal government's Energy Star® label. How much can you save?




 **Refrigerators** consume the most power of all appliances in your home. The newest models are much more efficient than older ones. Example: If you replace a ten-year-old, 19-cubic-foot refrigerator with a new high-efficiency model, you can reduce your energy costs by up to \$100 per year.

 **Clothes washers** are produced in two configurations: traditional top-loading, vertical-axis machines and tumble-action (horizontal-axis) machines. Tumble-action washers use nearly 50% less water and 30% to 40% less energy per load than top-loading machines.

 **Clothes dryers** consume about 5% of household energy. An efficient dryer not only costs less to run but also can prevent damage to your clothes from overdrying. Natural-gas clothes dryers cost significantly less to operate than electric dryers.

 **High-efficiency water heaters** can cut your energy costs by \$30/year if you use natural gas; \$60/year if you use propane; \$50/year if you use electricity; and \$220/year if you use electricity and switch to a heat pump.

 **Air conditioners** are 50% more efficient today than 15 years ago. Replacing an old, inefficient model can save you more than half your cooling costs.

## MORE EASY WAYS TO CUT YOUR ENERGY BILL

Here's a simple checklist of other things you can do today to lower your energy bills this winter:

- ✓ **Reduce the temperature** of your water heater to 120°F. You'll save energy and avoid scalding your hands.
- ✓ **Install an insulating blanket** around your water heater. It will pay for itself in a year or less.
- ✓ **Use energy-saving settings** on refrigerators, dishwashers, washing machines, and clothes dryers. Air-dry your dishes instead of using the dishwasher's heater.
- ✓ **Replace incandescent light bulbs** with compact fluorescents. These can save up to 75% of electricity used for lighting. The best targets are 60- to 100-watt bulbs that are on several hours each day.
- ✓ **Clean or replace your home's** furnace, air-conditioner, and heat-pump filters to improve air flow.
- ✓ **Place rope caulk around leaky windows** or install film covers over windows to insulate them. Both products are readily available at hardware and do-it-yourself stores.



- ✓ **Seal up the largest air leaks** in your home — the ones that feel drafty or whistle on windy days. The worst energy-drainers usually are not windows and doors but holes in walls to accommodate pipes, gaps around chimneys and recessed lights in insulated ceilings, and unfinished spaces behind cupboards and closets.
- ✓ **Install a clock thermostat** to set your thermostat to a lower temperature automatically at night and when you are away.



Earth Share

Earth Share, a federation of America's leading non-profit environmental and conservation charities, promotes environmental education and charitable giving in employee workplace giving campaigns.

For more tips or to find out how your workplace can help the earth, visit Earth Share's Web site at [www.earthshare.org](http://www.earthshare.org), call 800.875.3863, or send an e-mail to [info@earthshare.org](mailto:info@earthshare.org).

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When Rhode Islanders look for health insurance, they turn to us. That's why we insure over 60% of the state's population, under our commercial and senior plans. We also insure over 80% of the state employees.

*When given a choice,* There's good reason for this overwhelming support – Rhode Islanders know a good thing when they see it. They know that we've been providing the best in health care coverage for over 60 years. They know that we have the state's largest provider networks, including nearly every doctor you'd want to see in Rhode Island. And they know that we offer the widest choice of plans in the state.

*Rhode Islanders choose us.*



But if you're a typical Rhode Islander, you're also a smart consumer – you'll want to see for yourself. Be our guest! Compare any of our plans with our competitors'. You'll find that we offer the best benefits and best service. Once you compare, you know why thousands of Rhode Islanders choose us whenever they have a choice.

In the unlikely event you're not already enrolled in one of our plans, call us today at 401-831-6550 or toll-free at 1-800-327-6152.

Start enjoying better benefits right away. After all, if you have a choice, doesn't it make sense to go with the plan you really want?



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competition. Whether you are coming from another Blue Cross plan or a completely different network, BlueCHiP is easy to join and even easier to use. To find out more about BlueCHiP, call 831-6550 or 1-800-327-6152.



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